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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00

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R 052049Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 00960

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE, CI
SUBJECT: CHILE CONDEMNS VENEZUELAN COUP ATTEMPT

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT AYLWIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER SILVA
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CIMMA STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA.
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VARGAS, REFLECTING THE MEASURES TO
SUPPORT REGIONAL DEMOCRACIES ADOPTED BY THE 1991 SANTIAGO
OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SAID THE SAFEGUARDING OF DEMOCRACY
IS NO LONGER ONLY AN INTERNAL PROBLEM BUT A MATTER OF
GLOBAL CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE GOC REACTED QUICKLY AND PURPOSEFULLY TO THE
ATTEMPTED COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA. PRESIDENT AYLWIN,
FROM HIS VACATION HOME IN THE SOUTH, CONDEMNED THE COUP
ATTEMPT, INDICATED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200503206

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SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, AND AFFIRMED CHILE'S SUPPORT FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY ON THE CONTINENT.

3. (U) FOREIGN MINISTER SILVA CIMMA, CITING THE CONTINENT'S PROGRESS TOWARD CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY, DISPATCHED A NOTE TO HIS VENEZUELAN COUNTERPART ARMANDO DURAN CONDEMNING THE COUP'S THREAT TO VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY. HE LAUDED THE WORLD'S MOVE AWAY FROM AUTHORITARIANISM AND TOTALITARIANISM AND SAID THAT LATIN AMERICA MUST REINFORCE DEMOCRATIC REGIMES.

4. (U) DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VARGAS, IN CHARGE OF THE MFA DURING THE VACATION OF SILVA CIMMA, RELEASED A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH SAID THAT THE GOC "HAS EXPRESSED ITS ABSOLUTE CONDEMNATION OF THE COUP AND ITS TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA." VARGAS STATED THAT THE SAFEGUARDING OF DEMOCRACY WAS NOT ONLY AN INTERNAL ISSUE BUT A GLOBAL CONCERN. HE ADDED THAT THE MFA HAD INSTRUCTED THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE
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OAS TO SUPPORT A UNITED INTERAMERICAN APPROACH TOWARD THE CRISIS "IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE 21ST OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY."

5. (C) COMMENT: THE STRONG CHILEAN REACTION TO THE EVENTS IN VENEZUELA MUST BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILE'S OWN UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH COUPS. SINCE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, CHILE'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS EVOLVED FROM A TRADITIONAL EMPHASIS ON NON-INTERVENTION TO A MORE ACTIVIST APPROACH ON SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY. EXAMPLES OF THIS CHANGE INCLUDE: (1) VARGAS' STATEMENT THAT DEMOCRACY IS NO LONGER ONLY AN INTERNAL MATTER, (2) CHILE'S ACTIVE EFFORTS TO CREATE AN OAS AUTOMATIC ANTI-COUP MECHANISM AT THE JUNE 1991 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO, AND (3) CHILE'S CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN HAITI. THOUGH THE CHANCES OF A COUP HERE ARE REMOTE, THE AYLWIN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THE POTENTIAL THREAT POSED TO ALL REGIONAL DEMOCRACIES AND THE UTILITY OF INTERAMERICAN COOPERATION IN DEFENDING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES.

KAMMAN

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